

Utah Interagency Fire Information

Cooperating Agencies:

www.utahfireinfo.gov



Bureau of Indian Affairs



Bureau of Land Management



National Park Service



State of Utah,
Forestry, Fire and State Lands



U.S. Forest Service



US Fish and Wildlife
Service

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FIRE POTENTIAL HIGH FOR PARTS OF UTAH

(Salt Lake City) – As the 2006 wildland fire season approaches the potential for wildland fire is above average for much of western Utah and the extreme southeast portion of the state. Most of central and eastern Utah, especially higher elevations, is expected to be normal.

“Predicting our wildland fire season is not an exact science,” says Tracy Dunford, fire management officer for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. “However, indications are we’re entering this season pretty much the same as last year when we saw the heaviest fire activity in the southwest portion of the state.”

Most of southern Utah and some eastern areas are the last reminders of a prolonged drought. Despite snow pack increases in southern Utah, moisture levels remain abnormally low. Meanwhile, heavy snow pack throughout most northern regions will keep the fire danger average.

“Once again the extra moisture we’ve received is adding to the growth of grasses and other vegetation, especially cheat grass in the west desert areas,” says BLM Fire Management Officer Sheldon Wimmer. “As those grasses continue to dry out they are easily ignited and have the potential to grow into large fires, especially when winds kick up.”

Federal, state and local fire management agencies urge everyone to be careful in their use of fire. As spring turns to summer and more people seek outdoor recreation the potential for wildland fire increases.

“As in years past, we are entering the start of this current fire season with a strong prediction of a major fire season. While there are never any guarantees as to intensity and duration, the public needs to be aware of conditions around them and act accordingly. We live in a fire dependent environment and the potential for a wildfire is always there,” says Mike Dudley, Fire, Aviation and Air Director for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service.

Federal and state agencies continue to work with communities at risk from wildland fire to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Since the inception of the National Fire Plan, the USDA Forest Service, BLM, and Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands have assisted about 100 communities statewide in completing plans. Communities with those plans in place are given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects.

The latest information regarding Utah’s wildland fire danger, fire restrictions, fire updates and preventive measures can be found at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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